

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 038399

E.O. 11652, GDS

TAGS: UN, PFOR, APER

SUBJECT: ORGANIZING FOR MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY, STATE 303856

FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT QUOTE R 292324Z DEC 75 FM
SECSTATE WASHDC

1. WITH THE INCREASING SIGNIFICANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS IN OUR FOREIGN POLICY, I ASKED
THE REGIONAL ASSISTANT SECRETARIES SEVERAL MONTHS AGO TO
CONSIDER WAYS TO PROMOTE OUR POLICY INTERESTS MORE
EFFECTIVELY IN THESE MULTILATERAL FORUMS. THERE WAS A
CONSENSUS THAT WE MUST GIVE GREATER ATTENTION TO
MULTILATERAL RELATIONS AND DO MORE TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR
OUR POSITIONS. THIS TELEGRAM IS TO INFORM YOU OF
THE INCREASED IMPORTANCE THAT WE INTEND TO ATTACH TO
OTHER COUNTRIES' ACTIONS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES OF
IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES AND OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL
INITIATIVES WE HAVE TAKEN IN THE DEPARTMENT TO INTENSIFY
OUR MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY.

2. ONE OF THE FACTORS BY WHICH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
WILL MEASURE THE VALUE ANOTHER COUNTRY ATTACHES TO ITS
RELATIONSHIP TO US WILL BE ITS STATEMENTS AND ITS VOTES
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ON MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO US IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS.

UNFRIENDLY ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS -- INDISCRIMINATE
OPPOSITION TO RESOLUTIONS OF SIGNIFICANCE TO US OR
SPEECHES BROADLY ATTACKING THE UNITED STATES -- MAY WELL
HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT UPON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.
THE FACT THAT SMALL STATES HAVE AN EQUAL VOICE WITH THE
GREAT POWERS IN MOST INTERNATIONAL FORUMS REQUIRES THAT
THEY SHOULD BEHAVE WITH RESPONSIBILITY AND AN AWARENESS
OF THE IMPACT THEIR POSITION CAN HAVE IN THEIR
RELATIONS WITH US.

3. FOR THESE REASONS I AM REQUESTING YOU AND ALL OTHER
AMBASSADORS, AS I HAVE ALREADY REQUESTED THE REGIONAL
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES, TO TAKE GREATER PERSONAL INTEREST
IN MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY. TO PROVIDE ORGANIZATIONAL
SUPPORT FOR YOUR EFFORTS, I HAVE DIRECTED SAM LEWIS
TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE OF MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS WITH A
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND A SMALL SUPPORTING STAFF.
THIS OFFICE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WORKING WITH THE OTHER
BUREAUS TO PROVIDE OVERSEAS POSTS WITH THE NECESSARY
BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS. IT WILL ALSO
DRAW ON THE DEPARTMENT'S COMPUTER CAPABILITY TO COMPILE
AND ANALYZE DATA ON VOTING TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS. PERSONNEL IS NOW DEVELOPING A NEW CODE
SYSTEM WHICH WILL MAKE POSSIBLE THE IDENTIFICATION OF
VARIOUS SKILLS RELATED TO MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY. THIS
SYSTEM WILL HELP THE DEPARTMENT IN MAKING ASSIGNMENTS TO
KEY MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS POSITIONS AND IN DEVELOPING
A SKILLED CORPS OF MULTILATERAL OFFICERS. I HAVE ALSO
ASKED EACH ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO DESIGNATE ONE OF HIS
DEPUTIES AND POSSIBLY A MEMBER OF THE BUREAU STAFF TO
TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY IN THAT
BUREAU.

4. IN THESE WAYS I BELIEVE THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE ABLE
TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE FLOW OF TIMELY GUIDANCE THAT YOU
WILL NEED TO SUPPORT OUR POSITION WITH YOUR HOST
GOVERNMENT. SUCCESS WILL LARGELY DEPEND ON THE EFFECTIVE-
NESS OF YOUR MISSION'S WORK WITH ITS HOST GOVERNMENT.
TO PARALLEL OUR OWN ORGANIZATIONAL INNOVATIONS, YOU MAY
WISH TO DESIGNATE ONE OF YOUR SENIOR OFFICIALS TO TAKE
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DAY-TO-DAY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE MATTERS AND IN SOME
EMBASSIES WE MAY LATER ON DESIGNATE ONE POSITION FOR
MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS. WHATEVER INSTITUTIONAL STEPS YOU
TAKE, I HOPE YOU WILL GIVE THESE MATTERS PERSONAL
ATTENTION.

5. WORKING TOGETHER, THE DEPARTMENT AND THE OVERSEAS
POSTS WILL, I BELIEVE, BE ABLE TO DEVELOP GREATER SUPPORT

FOR OUR POSITION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND IN

THIS WAY STRENGTHEN THESE ORGANIZATIONS WHILE FURTHER-
ING OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS. ROBINSON UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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